

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01686 280257Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 ACDA-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/073 W

-----069341 282135Z /45

R 271635Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4524
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
USMISSION USNATO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
COMSIXTHFLT NAPLES IT
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CNO WASHDC
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 01686

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, TS, BE
SUBJECT: SOVIET USE OF MENZEL BOURGUIBA DOCKYARDS
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 01686 280257Z

IN TUNISIA

REF: A) STATE 12507, B) STATE 8286, C) TUNIS 247,
D) USNATO 00627

1. WE CALLED ON BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR
FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS (AMB PATERNOTTE) JANUARY 24

AND, DRAWING ON REFS A AND B AND PREVIOUS, EXPRESSED U.S. CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET USE OF MENZEL-BOURGUIBA DOCKYARD FACILITIES IN TUNISIA. PATERNOTTE WAS AWARE OF THE ISSUE AND TOLD US BELGIUM HAD BEEN FOLLOWING PROBLEM IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HER NATO ALLIES. HE SAID BELGIUM SHARES OUR CONCERN AND THAT THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN TUNIS HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GIVE HIS VIEWS ON POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION FOR BELGIUM. PATERNOTTE SAID THE NUB OF THE PROBLEM WAS THE TUNISIAN REQUIREMENT TO EARN FOREIGN EXCHANGE BY KEEPING THE SHIP REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE FACILITY FUNCTIONING AT FULL CAPACITY; PROBABLY THE ONLY WAY FOR THE ALLIES TO LIMIT OR TERMINATE SOVIET USE WOULD BE TO COME FORWARD WITH A PROPOSAL FOR THE TUNISIANS THAT WOULD MAKE UP FOR THE REVENUE LOST BY REDUCTION OR TERMINATION OF SOVIET USE OF THE FACILITY.

2. PATERNOTTE PROMISED TO INFORM US WHAT DECISION BELGIANS TAKE ON THIS ISSUE. OLSEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Remarks:
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